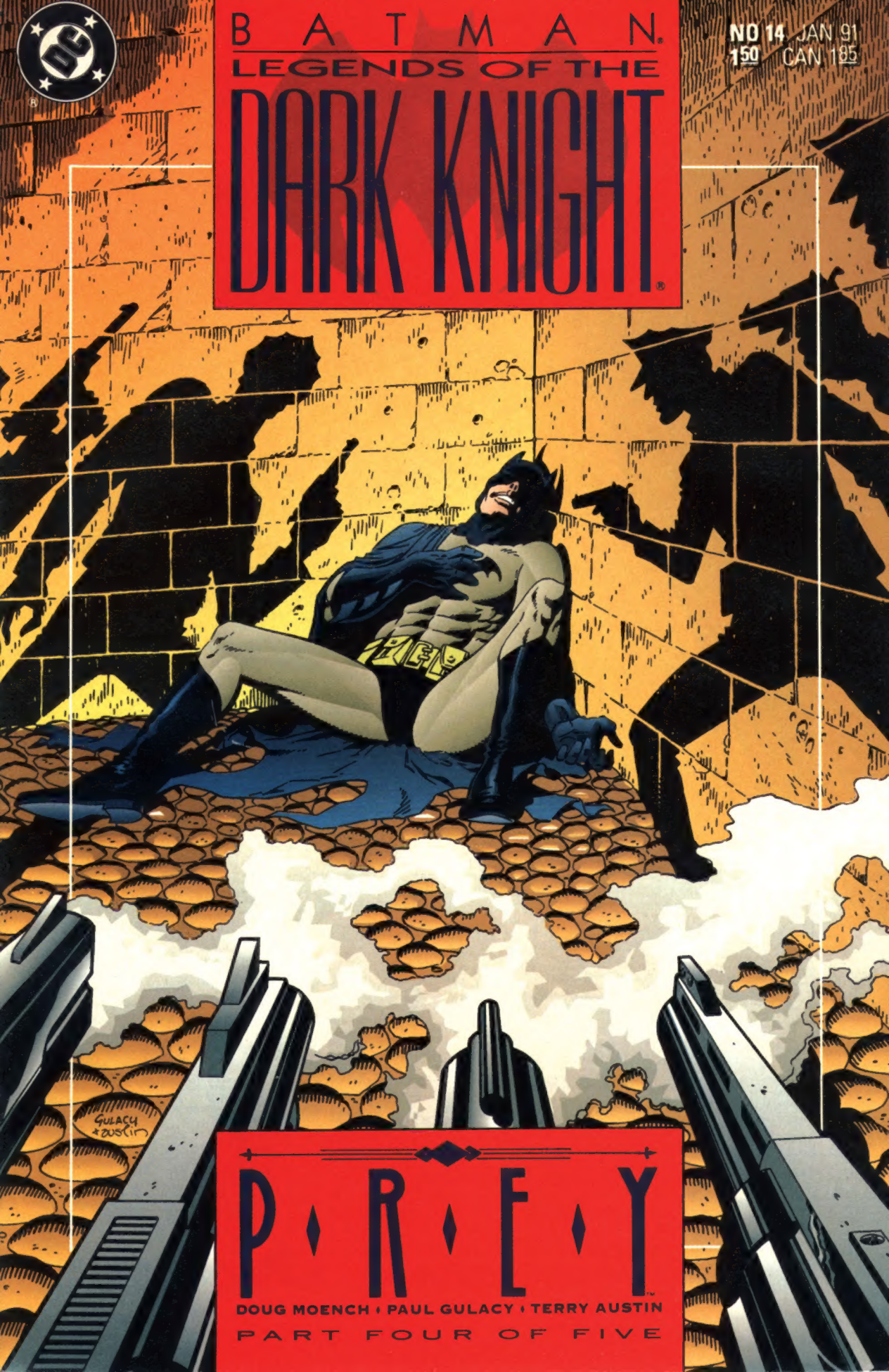
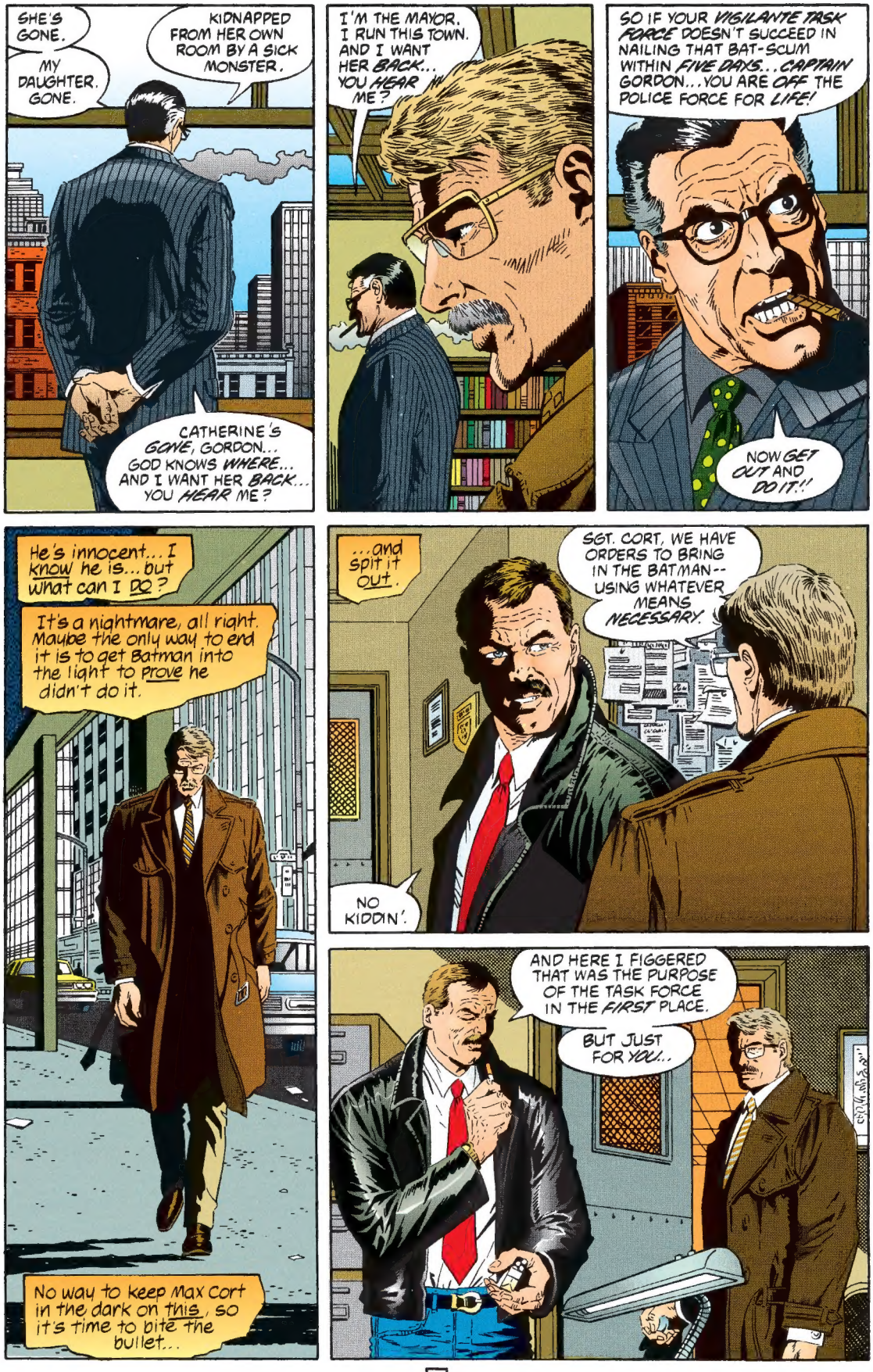
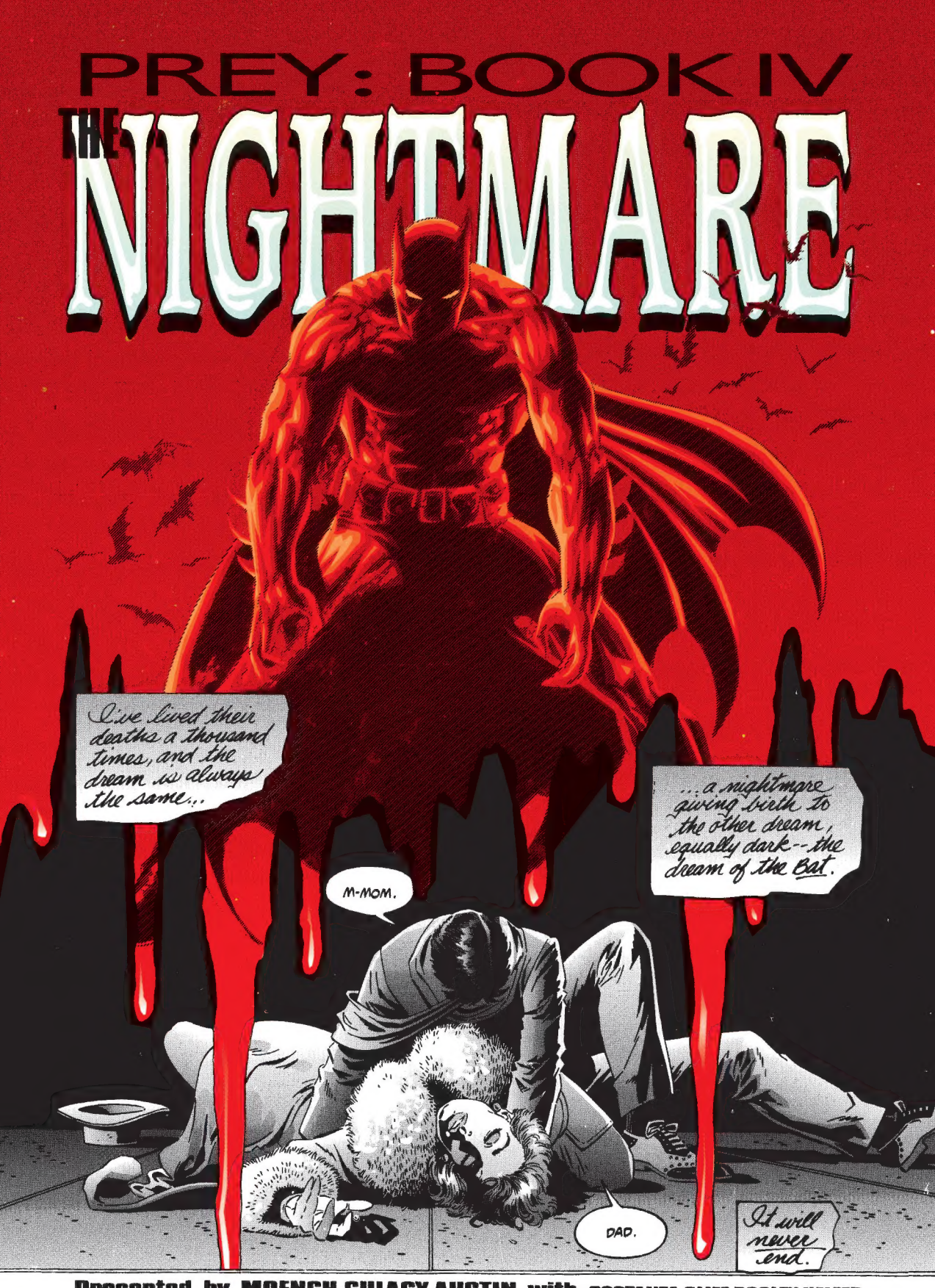

BATMAN
LEGENDS OF THE
DARK KNIGHT
NO 14 JAN 91
150 CAN 185
GULACY
AUSTIN
PREY
DOUG MOENCH • PAUL GULACY • TERRY AUSTIN
PART FOUR OF FIVE


SHE'S GONE.
MY DAUGHTER. GONE.
KIDNAPPED FROM HER OWN ROOM BY A SICK MONSTER.
CATHERINE'S GONE, GORDON... GOD KNOWS WHERE... AND I WANT HER BACK... YOU HEAR ME?
I'M THE MAYOR. I RUN THIS TOWN. AND I WANT HER BACK... YOU HEAR ME?
SO IF YOUR VIGILANTE TASK FORCE DOESN'T SUCCEED IN NAILING THAT BAT-SCUM WITHIN FIVE DAYS... CAPTAIN GORDON... YOU ARE OFF THE POLICE FORCE FOR LIFE!
NOW GET OUT AND DO IT!!
He's innocent... I know he is... but what can I DO?
It's a nightmare, all right. Maybe the only way to end it is to get Batman into the light to prove he didn't do it.
No way to keep Max Cort in the dark on this, so it's time to bite the bullet...
...and spit it out.
SGT. CORT, WE HAVE ORDERS TO BRING IN THE BATMAN-- USING WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.
NO KIDDIN'.
AND HERE I FIGGERED THAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT JUST FOR YOU...

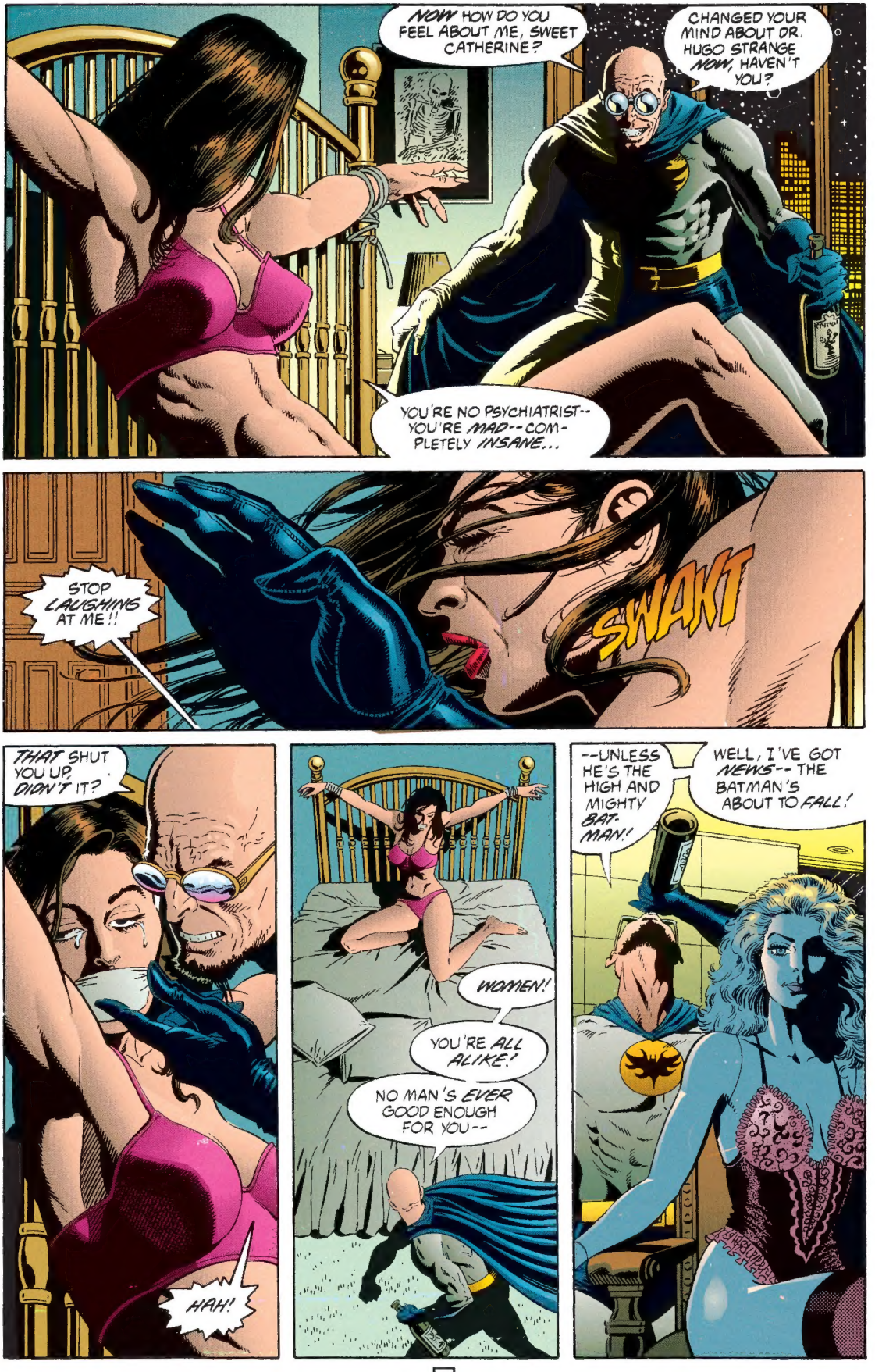
"...I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT."
BLUE LIGHT DINER
DAVIS & SONS
LATEST WORD ON THE BAT-FREAK, GUYS.
UNOFFICIAL, YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT STRAIGHT FROM THE TOP...
PHONE
YEAH? SO WHAT'S THE WORD, MAX?
SAM'S BILLIARDS
...SHOOT TO KILL.
Mom and Dad.
ZORRO
A good movie.
A shortcut.
And the man.
The man with the gun...

PREY: BOOK IV

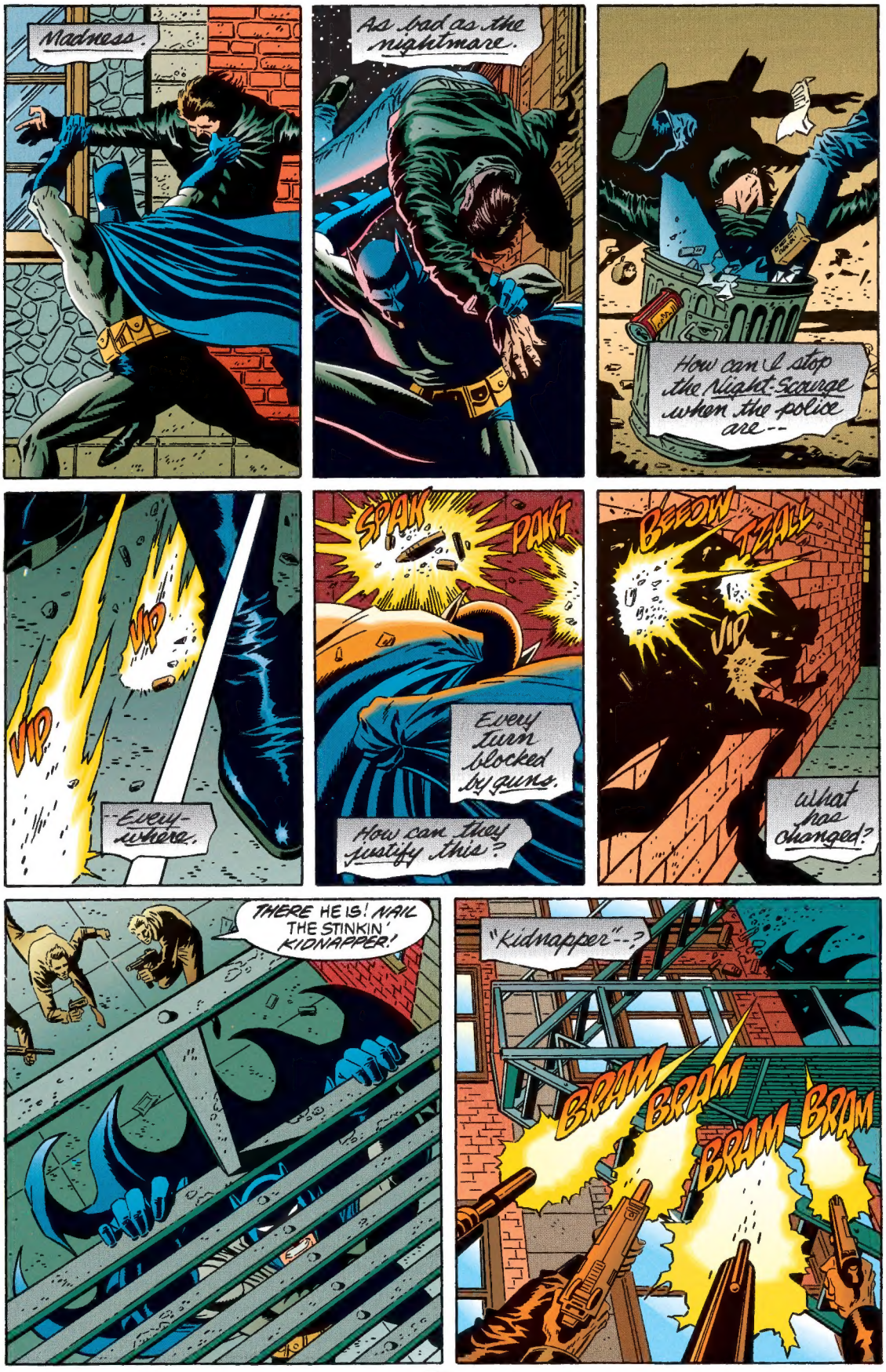
THE NIGHTMARE

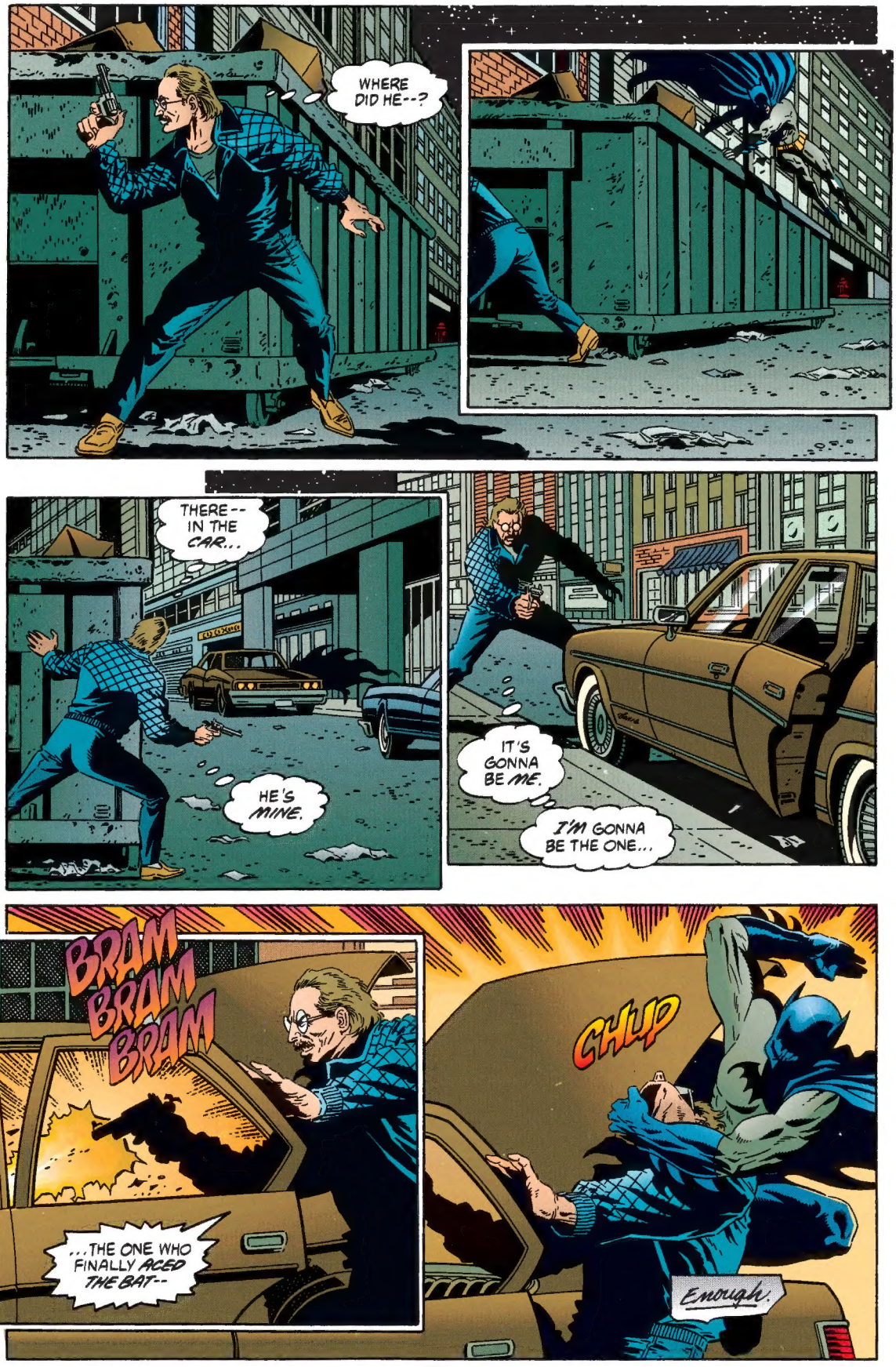

I've lived their deaths a thousand times, and the dream is always the same...
...a nightmare giving birth to the other dream, equally dark--the dream of the Bat.
M-MOM.
DAD.
It will never end.

Presented by MOENCH-GULACY-AUSTIN with COSTANZA-OLIFF-DOOLEY-HELFER

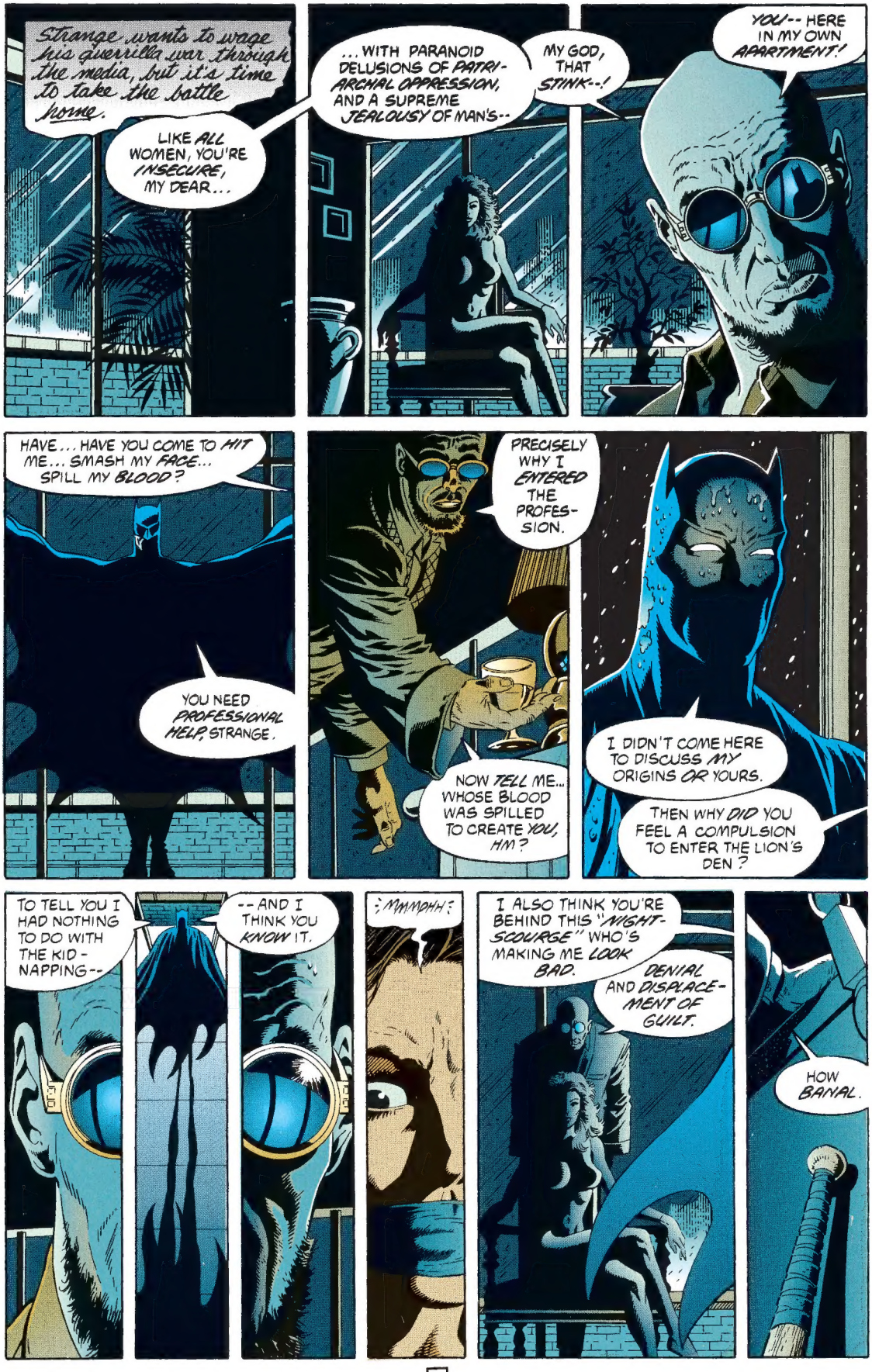

NOW HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ME, SWEET CATHERINE?
CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT DR. HUGO STRANGE NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU'RE NO PSYCHIATRIST-- YOU'RE MAD--COMPLETELY INSANE...
STOP LAUGHING AT ME!!
SWAK!
THAT SHUT YOU UP, DIDN'T IT?
HAH!
WOMEN!
YOU'RE ALL ALIKE!
NO MAN'S EVER GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU--
--UNLESS HE'S THE HIGH AND MIGHTY BATMAN!
WELL, I'VE GOT NEWS-- THE BATMAN'S ABOUT TO FALL!

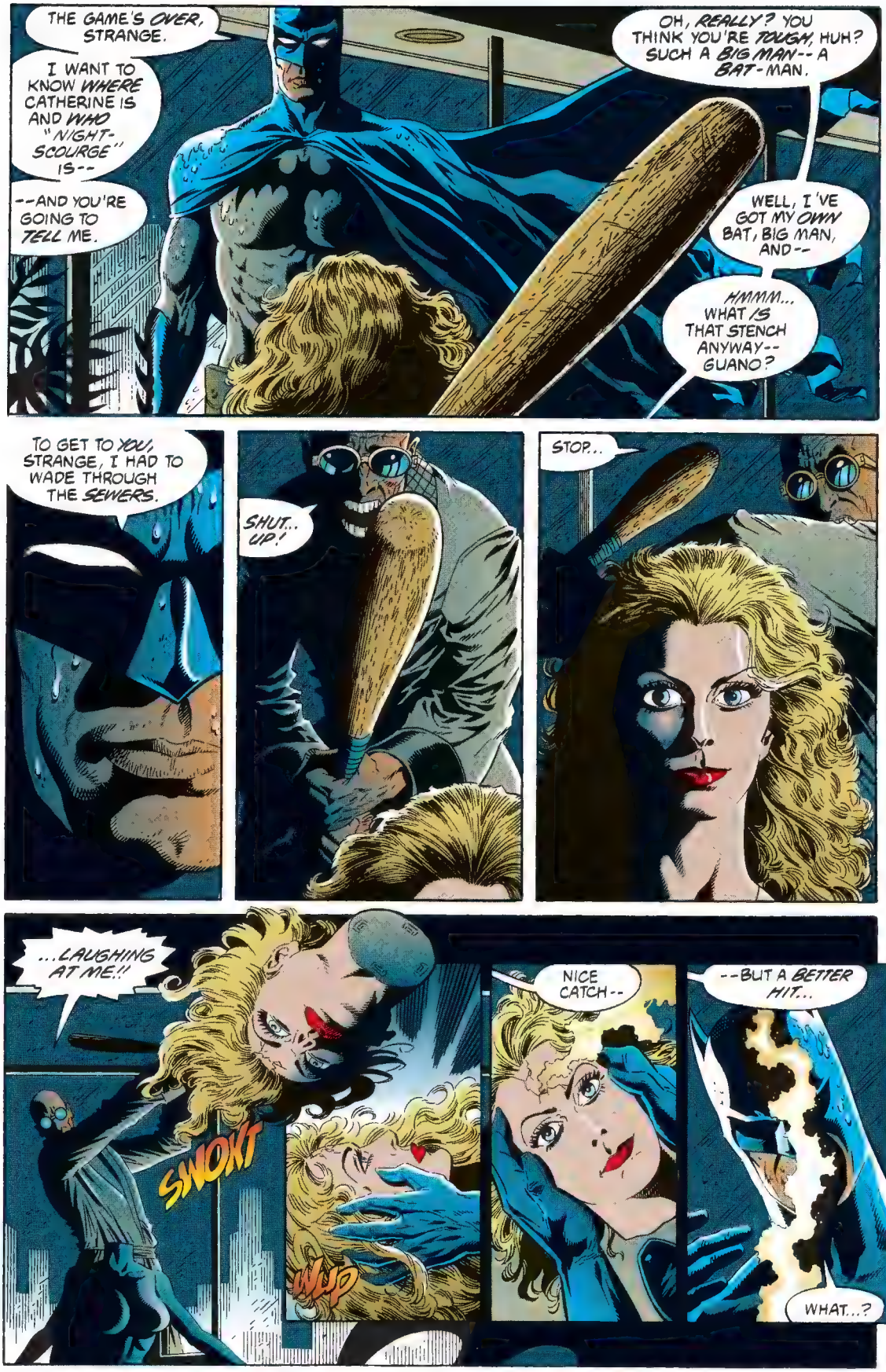
It never ends... they don't even give you time enough to catch your breath...
PEOOO!
...first the cat-burglar cold-cocks me hard...
BRAM
CHOOM
...and now they're shooting at me...
SPANG
They're cops!...
...and they're shooting to kill.
TZLING!
Does Gordon know about this?
If he does, something big has happened...
But what?
No cover from the one behind me.
Have to let him get close...
YOU'RE A COP?
YEAH, AND YOU'RE--
--D-UHN!
SHUMP


Madness.
As bad as the nightmare.
How can I stop the Night-Scourge when the police are--
VIP
VIP
-Every-where.
SPAK
PAKT
Every turn blocked by guns.
How can they justify this?
BEEOW
TZALL
VIP
what has changed?
THERE HE IS! NAIL THE STINKIN' KIDNAPPER!
"Kidnapper"--?
BRAM
BRAM
BRAM
BRAM


WHERE DID HE--?
THERE-- IN THE CAR...
HE'S MINE.
IT'S GONNA BE ME.
I'M GONNA BE THE ONE...
BRAM BRAM BRAM
...THE ONE WHO FINALLY ACED THE BAT--
CHUD
Enough.

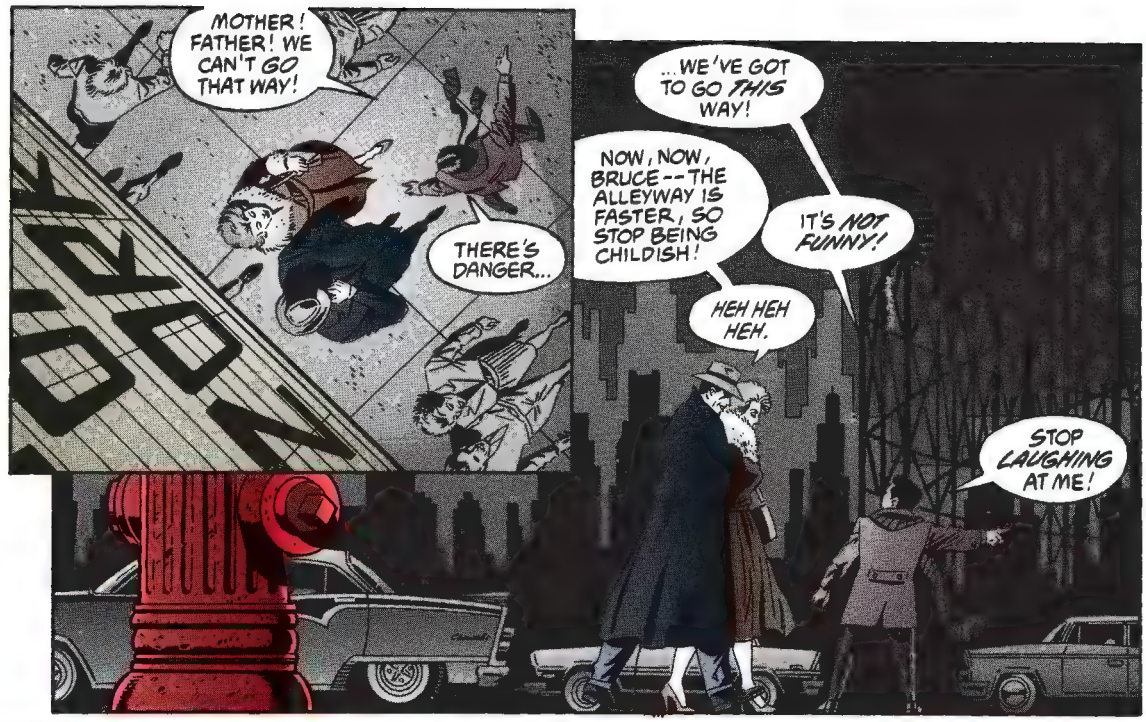
Got to shake them for good.
Need food...
...and rest...
...in the cave...
I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE CAME DOWN THIS DEAD-END.
HE DID-- BIG AS LIFE!
THOUGHT HE WAS OUT COLD WHEN WE CAUGHT HIM ON THE ROOF...
YEAH? WELL THEN MAYBE HE IS SOME KIND O' BAT-DEMON--
--SOME KIND O' SUPER-NATURAL CREATURE THAT CAN JUST DISAPPEAR...
YEAH-- AS SUPERNATURAL AS A SEWER-RAT.
OH. YEAH.
WELL, EVEN IF HE IS NORMAL...
...I AIN'T GOIN' DOWN THERE AFTER HIM.
Three blocks through that is far enough to--
GRILL
--ALL POINTS BULLETIN FOR THE MYSTERIOUS BATMAN VIGILANTE--
--NOW SOUGHT FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF MAYOR KLASS'S DAUGHTER CATHERINE...
NEWS IS COLD, MAN-- GET SOME BASS LINES ON THAT BOX.
The cave can wait.


Strange wants to wage his guerrilla war through the media, but it's time to take the battle home.
LIKE ALL WOMEN, YOU'RE INSECURE, MY DEAR...
...WITH PARANOID DELUSIONS OF PATRIARCHAL OPPRESSION, AND A SUPREME JEALOUSY OF MAN'S--
MY GOD, THAT STINK--!
YOU-- HERE IN MY OWN APARTMENT!
HAVE... HAVE YOU COME TO HIT ME... SMASH MY FACE... SPILL MY BLOOD?
YOU NEED PROFESSIONAL HELP, STRANGE.
PRECISELY WHY I ENTERED THE PROFESSION.
NOW TELL ME... WHOSE BLOOD WAS SPILLED TO CREATE YOU, HM?
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DISCUSS MY ORIGINS OR YOURS.
THEN WHY DID YOU FEEL A COMPULSION TO ENTER THE LION'S DEN?
TO TELL YOU I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE KIDNAPPING--
--AND I THINK YOU KNOW IT.
;MMMPHH;
I ALSO THINK YOU'RE BEHIND THIS "NIGHTSCOURGE" WHO'S MAKING ME LOOK BAD.
DENIAL AND DISPLACEMENT OF GUILT.
HOW BANAL.

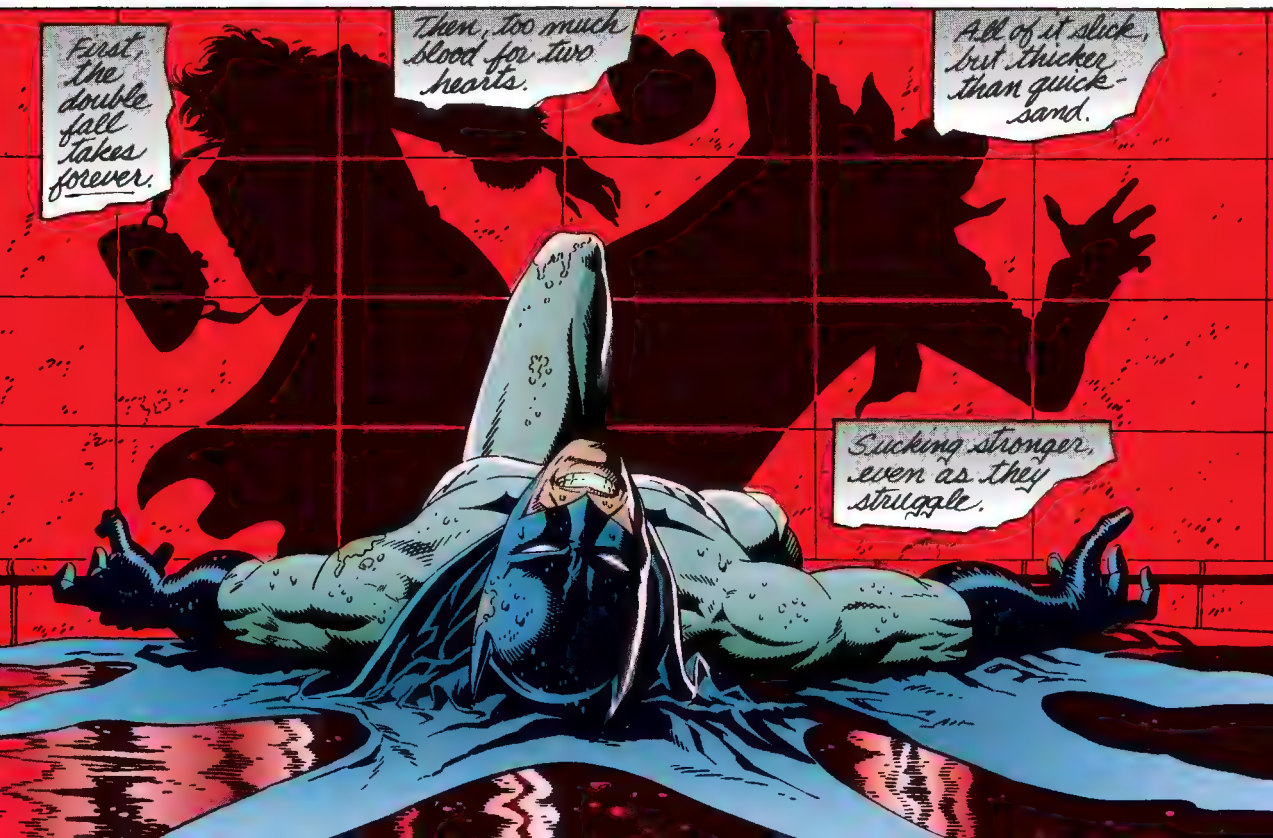

THE GAME'S OVER, STRANGE.
I WANT TO KNOW WHERE CATHERINE IS AND WHO "NIGHT-SCOURGE" IS--
--AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME.
OH, REALLY? YOU THINK YOU'RE TOUGH, HUH? SUCH A BIG MAN-- A BAT-MAN.
WELL, I'VE GOT MY OWN BAT, BIG MAN, AND--
HMMM... WHAT IS THAT STENCH ANYWAY-- GUANO?
TO GET TO YOU, STRANGE, I HAD TO WADE THROUGH THE SEWERS.
SHUT... UP!
STOP...
...LAUGHING AT ME!!
SWOK!
WUP
NICE CATCH--
--BUT A BETTER HIT...
WHAT...?

MIND WARP.
YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU...
THAT HEAD WAS PACKED WITH AN HALLUCINOGEN--
--AND NOW IT'S IN YOUR HEAD.
:KOFF A-HUK:
UNDER CONTROLLED SUPERVISION IT'S HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FOR BREAKING THROUGH EMOTIONAL BARRIERS...
...BUT IN UNCONTROLLED SITUATIONS, OF COURSE, IT CAN BE A NIGHTMARE.
SWUMP
UHN-H!
WHAT'S THAT? YOU SAY IT'S ALREADY TAKING EFFECT?
WELL, LET ME HELP IT ALONG--
WUMP!
--WITH A LITTLE EXTRA KICK!
AHN--!
GOOD NIGHT, DEAR BATMAN... AND SWEET DREAMS.
WOK!
N-NO-- NOT THAT WAY--!
MOTHER!!
FATHERRRR!!

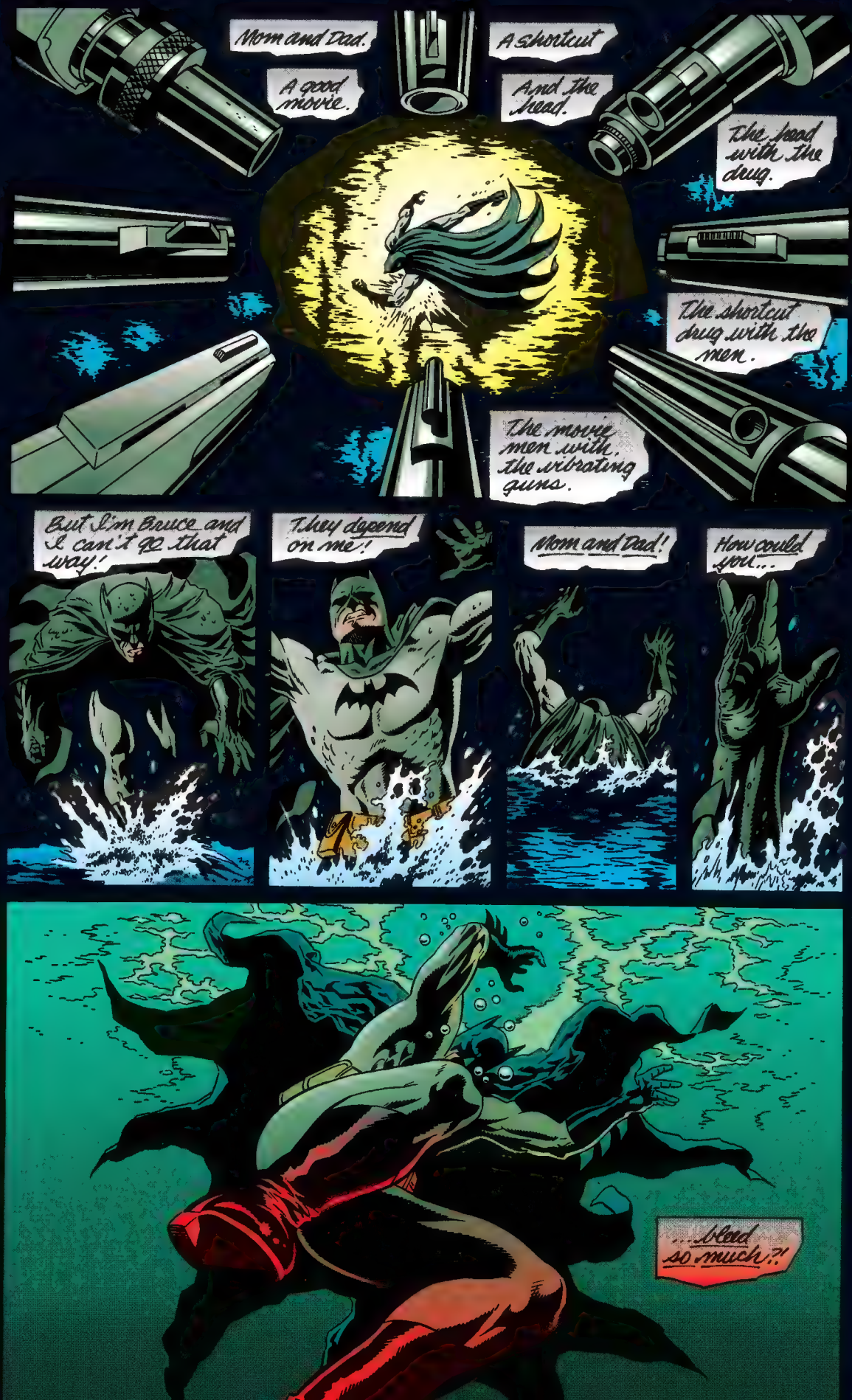
MOTHER?
FATHER--?
AHA!
NOT... THIS... WAY...
THE OTHER WAY...
OTHER WAY...
OTHER WAY!
TWANGG
AHN!
WUMP
SPAT
SST. MAXWELL CORT?
HUGO STRANGE HERE, MAXIE-BOY! LISTEN, I'VE JUST LOCATED THE LAST PIECE OF OUR PRICKLY PUZZLE.
YES, UH-HUH...
GET ME THE POLICE FILES ON ALL DOUBLE MURDERS -- HUSBAND AND WIFE -- GOING BACK TWENTY YEARS.


MOTHER! FATHER! WE CAN'T GO THAT WAY!
THERE'S DANGER...
...WE'VE GOT TO GO THIS WAY!
NOW, NOW, BRUCE--THE ALLEYWAY IS FASTER, SO STOP BEING CHILDISH!
IT'S NOT FUNNY!
HEH HEH HEH.
STOP LAUGHING AT ME!

The dream is different this time.
It's worse.
Much worse.


First, the double fall takes forever.
Then, too much blood for two hearts.
All of it slick, but thicker than quicksand.
Sucking stronger, even as they struggle.

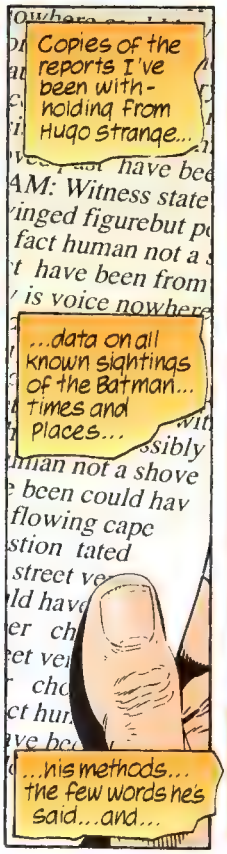
up and into him again: the man.
The man with the pulsing gun.
He's after me--after Bruce!
Not that way--this way!
But they're here too!
Men with breathing guns!
Around every corner!
MOTHER!
FATHER!
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, KID...
NOOOO!!
ONE MOVE AND YOU'RE DEAD!

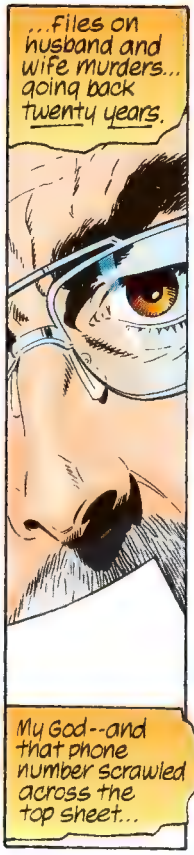

Mom and Dad.
A good movie.
A shortcut
And the head.
The head with the drug.
The shortcut drug with the men.
The movie men with the vibrating guns.
But I'm Bruce and I can't go that way!
They depend on me!
Mom and Dad!
How could you...
...bleed so much?!

C'MON, BOBBY, LET'S DON'T PUSH OUR LUCK, MAN! LET'S GO!
AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT! LEMME JUST GET THE REST O' THESE--
HUH?
WH-WHO THE--
YAARRGH
BOBBY! WHAT THE--?
OH MY GOD, BOBBY... WHAT HAP--
SHRUKT
BETTER.
I'M BETTER.
BETTER THAN HIM.
STRANGE IS RIGHT...
...AND THE MOON IS... BEAUTIFUL... RELAXING...

KEEPING GOTHAM CLEAN
THE NIGHT SCOURGE
Another one last night, worse than the others...
...but if the perp isn't a bat, Cort's willing to sleep through it.
SGT. CORT
Come to think of it, why is he so tired these days? It hasn't been working nights this week...

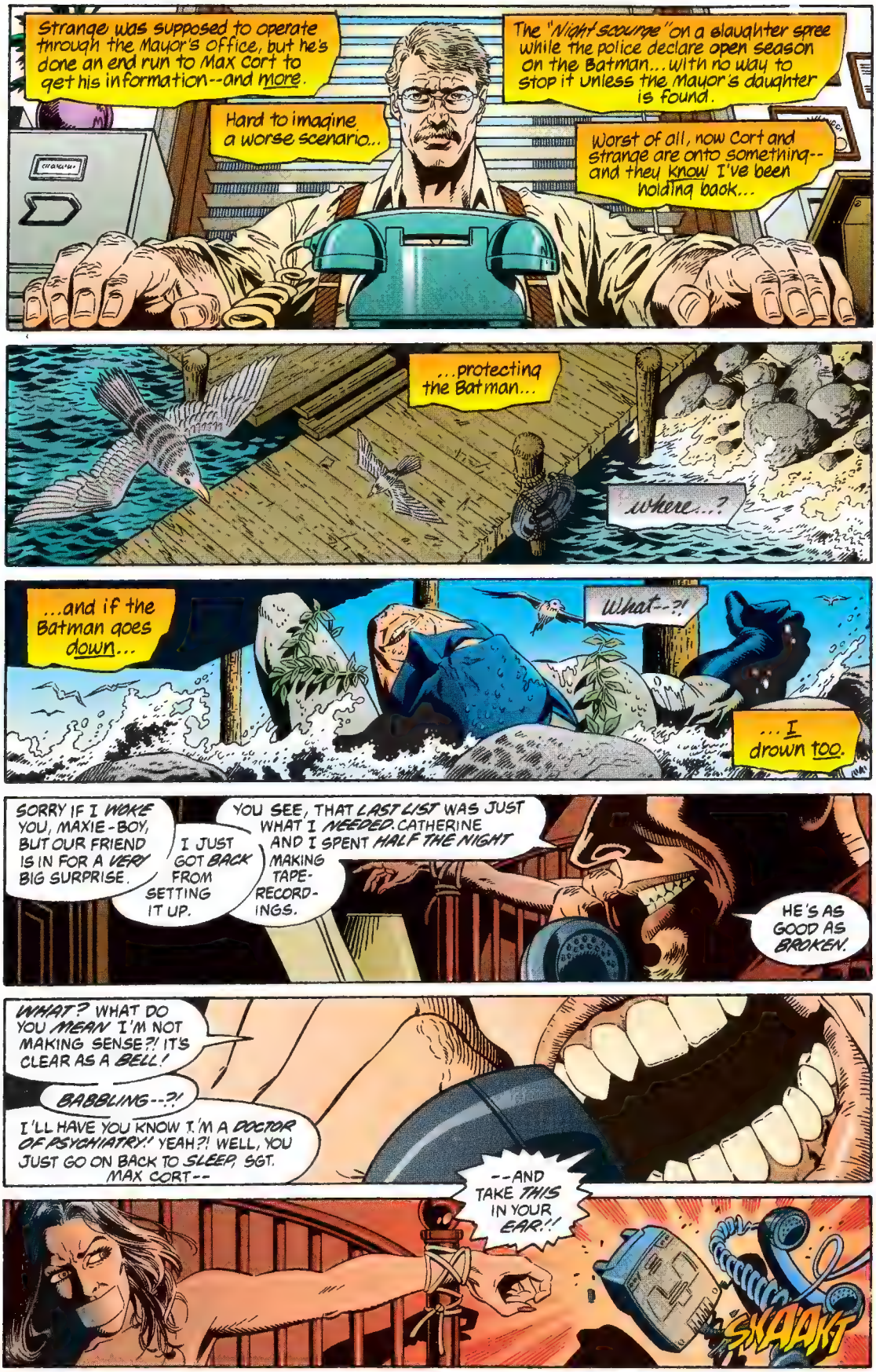
...at least not officially.
SNZZ MMPH

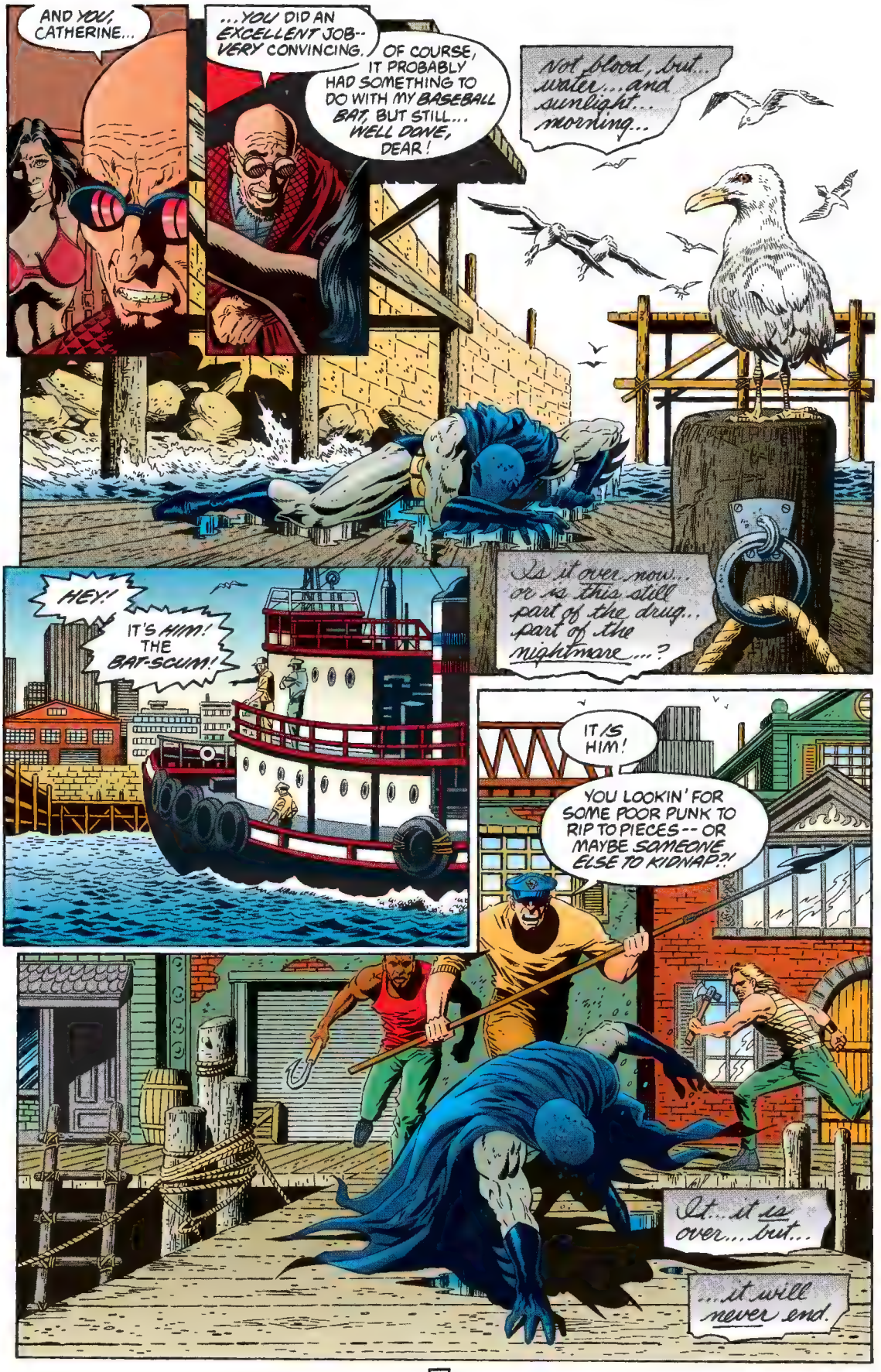

Copies of the reports I've been withholding from Hugo Strange...
...data on all known sightings of the Batman... times and places...
...his methods... the few words he's said... and...

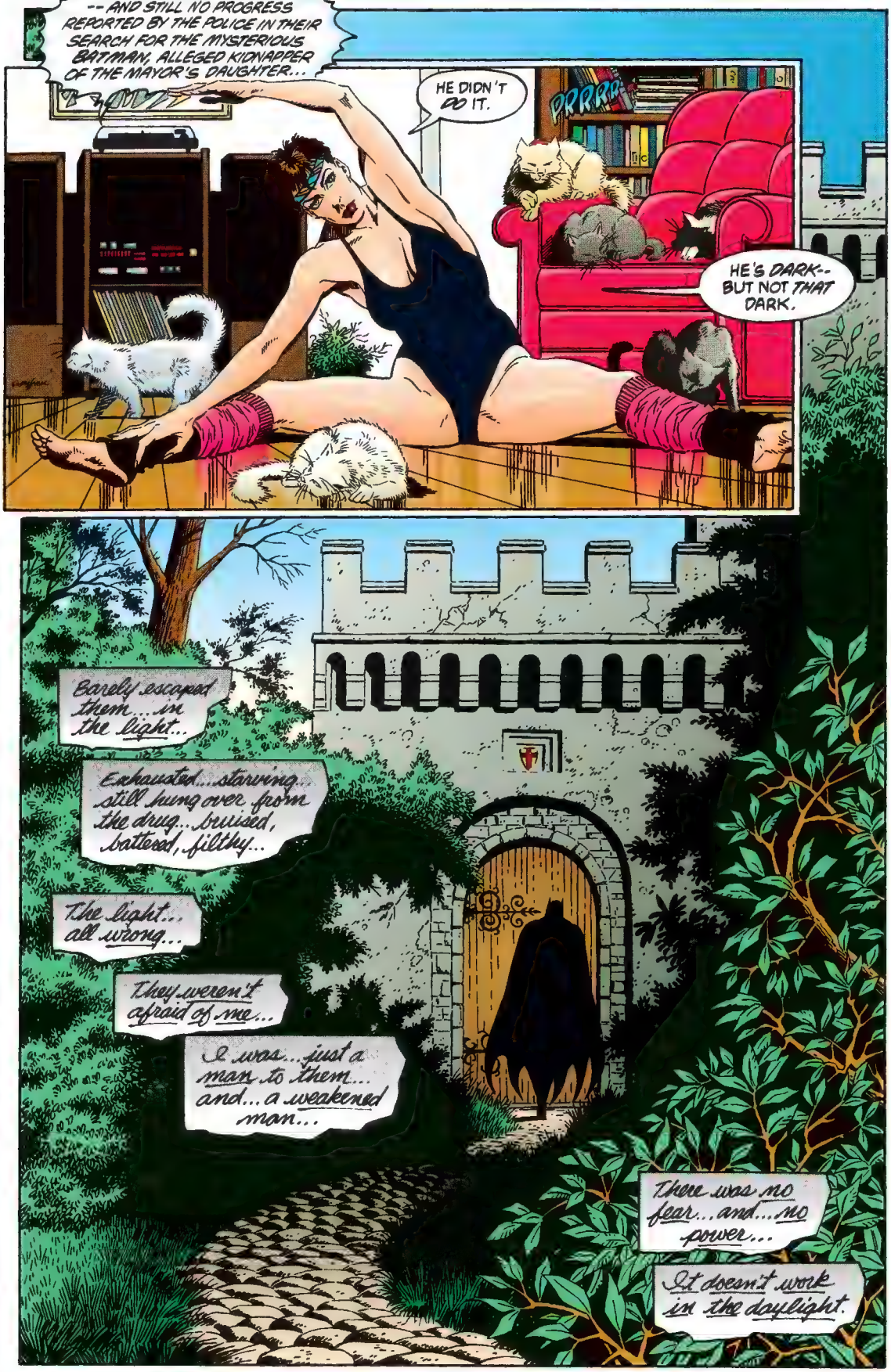

...files on husband and wife murders... going back twenty years.
My God--and that phone number scrawled across the top sheet...

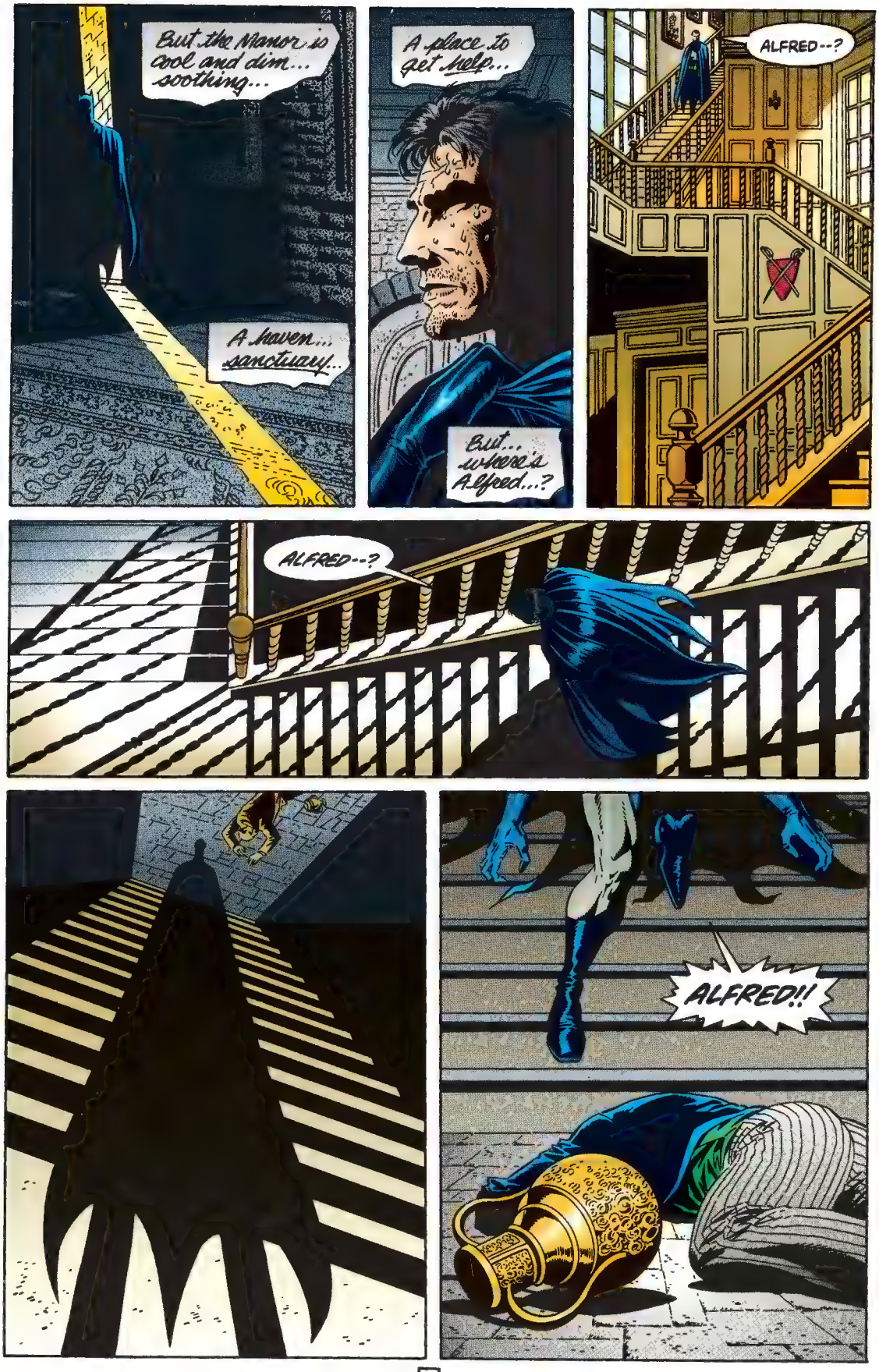
DR. HUGO STRANGE'S OFFICE. MAY I HELP YOU?
NO...

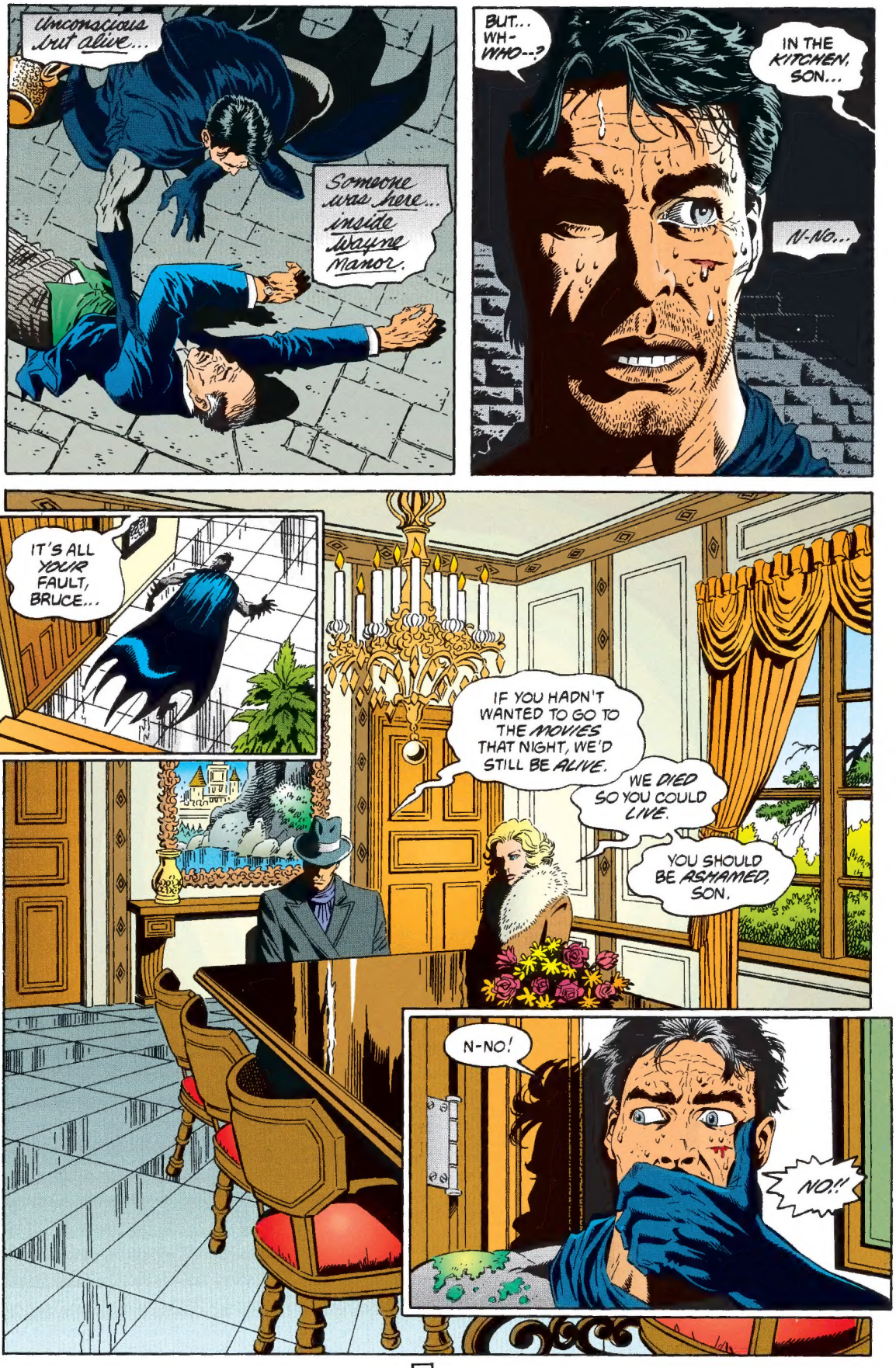
...but Cort is helping Strange.


Strange was supposed to operate through the Mayor's office, but he's done an end run to Max Cort to get his information--and more.
The "Night scourge" on a slaughter spree while the police declare open season on the Batman... with no way to stop it unless the Mayor's daughter is found.
Hard to imagine a worse scenario...
Worst of all, now Cort and Strange are onto something--and they know I've been holding back...
...protecting the Batman...
where...?
...and if the Batman goes down...
What--?!
...I drown too.
SORRY IF I WOKE YOU, MAXIE-BOY, BUT OUR FRIEND IS IN FOR A VERY BIG SURPRISE.
I JUST GOT BACK FROM SETTING IT UP.
YOU SEE, THAT LAST LIST WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED. CATHERINE AND I SPENT HALF THE NIGHT MAKING TAPE-RECORD-INGS.
HE'S AS GOOD AS BROKEN.
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN I'M NOT MAKING SENSE?! IT'S CLEAR AS A BELL!
BABBLING--?!
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M A DOCTOR OF PSYCHIATRY! YEAH?! WELL, YOU JUST GO ON BACK TO SLEEP, SGT. MAX CORT--
--AND TAKE THIS IN YOUR EAR!!
SKAAAK

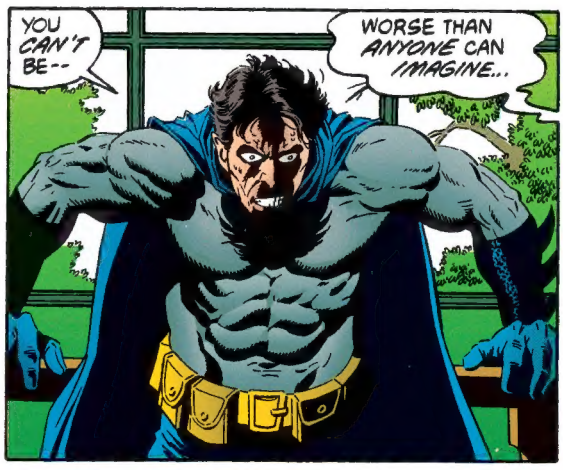

AND YOU, CATHERINE...
...YOU DID AN EXCELLENT JOB-- VERY CONVINCING.
OF COURSE, IT PROBABLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY BASEBALL BAT, BUT STILL... WELL DONE, DEAR!
Not blood, but... water...and sunlight... morning...
Is it over now... or is this still part of the drug... part of the nightmare...?
HEY!
IT'S HIM! THE BAT-SCUM!
IT IS HIM!
YOU LOOKIN' FOR SOME POOR PUNK TO RIP TO PIECES -- OR MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE TO KIDNAP?!
It... it is over... but...
...it will never end.


-- AND STILL NO PROGRESS REPORTED BY THE POLICE IN THEIR SEARCH FOR THE MYSTERIOUS BATMAN, ALLEGED KIDNAPPER OF THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER...
HE DIDN'T DO IT.
PRRRR
HE'S DARK-- BUT NOT THAT DARK.
Barely escaped them... in the light...
Exhausted... starving... still hung over from the drug... bruised, battered, filthy...
The light... all wrong...
They weren't afraid of me...
I was... just a man to them... and... a weakened man...
There was no fear... and... no power...
It doesn't work in the daylight.


But the Manor is cool and dim... soothing...
A haven... sanctuary...
A place to get help...
But... where's Alfred...?
ALFRED--?
ALFRED--?
ALFRED!!

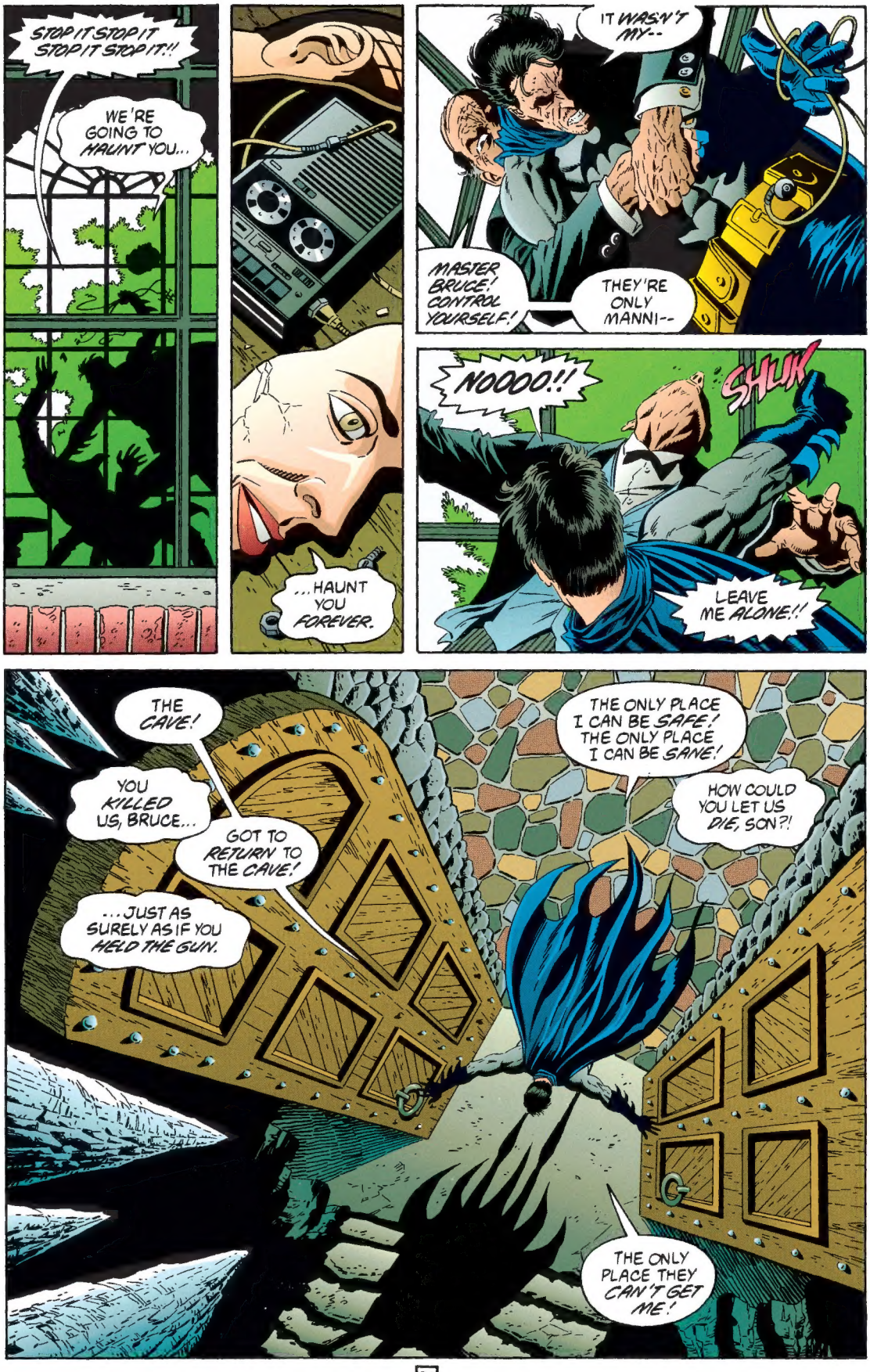

unconscious but alive...
Someone was here... inside Wayne Manor.
BUT... WH- WHO--?
IN THE KITCHEN, SON...
N-NO...
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, BRUCE...
IF YOU HADN'T WANTED TO GO TO THE MOVIES THAT NIGHT, WE'D STILL BE ALIVE.
WE DIED SO YOU COULD LIVE.
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED, SON.
N-NO!
NO!!

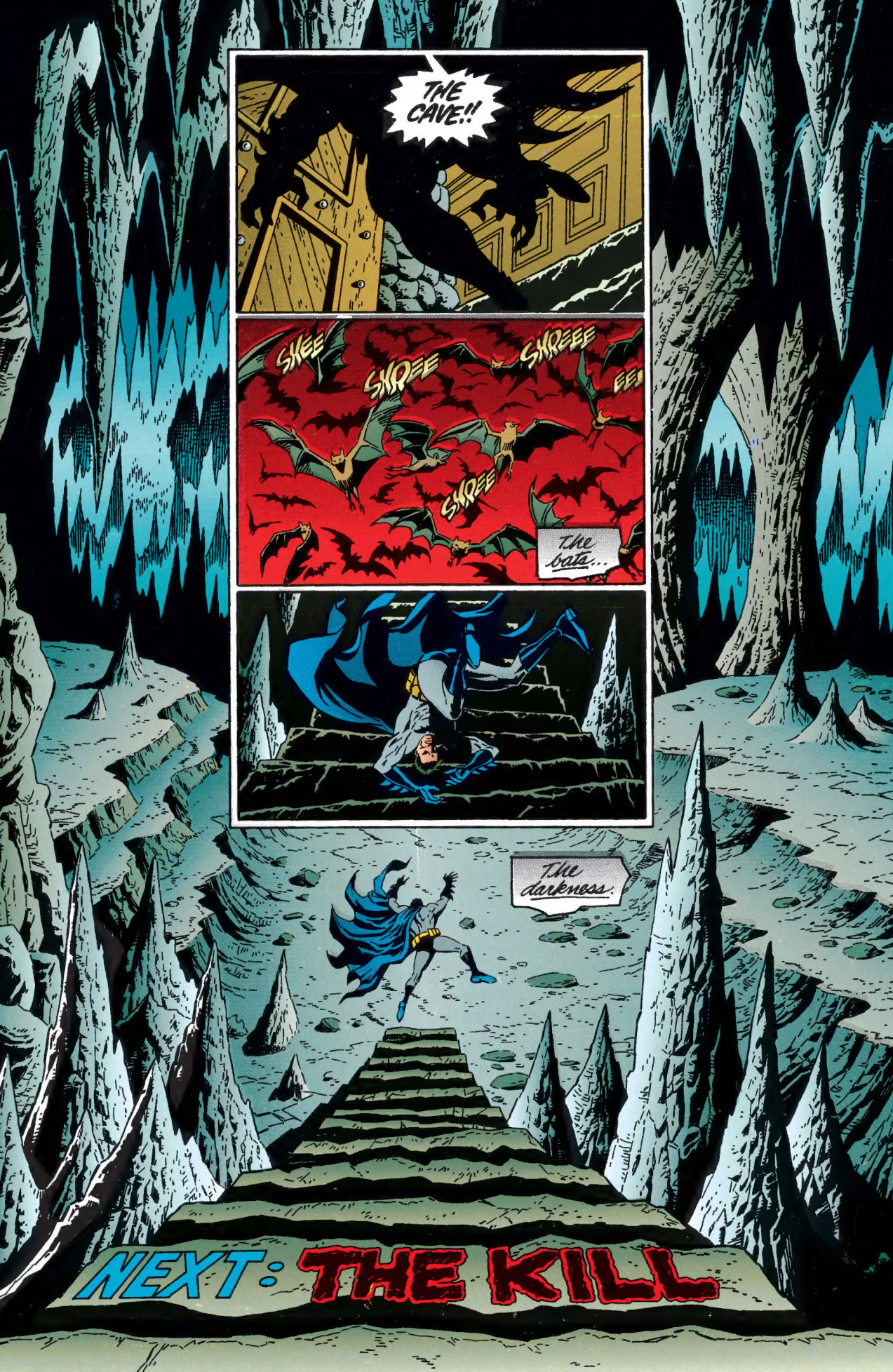
DID WE TELL YOU ABOUT THE PAIN?
THE PAIN AND THE DARKNESS?
LIKE FALLING INTO A PIT, SON.
NO!
IT'S TERRIBLE BEING DEAD, BRUCE...


YOU CAN'T BE--
WORSE THAN ANYONE CAN IMAGINE...

...AND IT'S ALL ON YOUR HEAD.
BECAUSE OF YOU, BRUCE, THE WORMS ARE GETTING FAT ON US.

WHO ARE YOU?!
STOP IT!!
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM THE GUILT, BRUCE.
WE'VE DECIDED YOU MUST BE PUNISHED, SON...


STOP IT STOP IT STOP IT STOP IT!!
WE'RE GOING TO HAUNT YOU...
...HAUNT YOU FOREVER.
IT WASN'T MY--
MASTER BRUCE! CONTROL YOURSELF!
THEY'RE ONLY MANNI--
NOOOO!!
SHUK
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
THE CAVE!
YOU KILLED US, BRUCE...
GOT TO RETURN TO THE CAVE!
...JUST AS SURELY AS IF YOU HELD THE GUN.
THE ONLY PLACE I CAN BE SAFE! THE ONLY PLACE I CAN BE SANE!
HOW COULD YOU LET US DIE, SON?!
THE ONLY PLACE THEY CAN'T GET ME!


THE CAVE!!
SKEE
SKREE
SKREEE
EE!
SKREE
The bats...
The darkness
NEXT: THE KILL